

free to choose our own doctor. And we're free to go to the closest emergency room.

These five new essential American freedoms will be yours for only as long as you can hang onto them. We as Democrats fought very hard to secure them. We're going to work very hard with everyone in this country to hold onto these newfound freedoms. Your freedoms are yours for only as long as you can hang onto them.

#### MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. During the worst recession in decades, should we be giving hundreds of billions in borrowed money to the rich? No. Instead, we should reignite the economy and focus on protecting the middle class. That's why I support extending tax cuts for them, who are 98 percent of American families.

But some in Congress are holding the middle class hostage in order to cut taxes for the wealthiest 2 percent. In tough times like these, millionaires should be giving to charity, not getting it. This will force our cash strapped government to lose \$700 billion over the next decade.

And where will this money go? Straight into the pockets of those making more than half a million a year. What's worse, the wealthy are less likely to spend this money, doing little to help our economy recover.

To me, the answer is clear—let's put our money where it creates jobs and helps the people who need it. Let's extend middle class tax cuts.

#### THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT PAY FREEZE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I can understand why President Obama has chosen to freeze Federal pay for the next 2 years. From a political standpoint, it preempts what the Republicans would have tried to do next year, anyway, and it responds to an antigovernment attitude that was most profoundly reflected in this month's congressional elections.

From a policy standpoint, though, it is, as they say, penny wise and pound foolish. The Federal Government has been subjected to a brain drain over the last decade, where the best and brightest folks in procurement, research and development, information technology, program management, budget and accounting and a host of other essential skill sets have gone over to the private sector for more pay and, in many cases, better working conditions.

Most of the Federal civil service is eligible for retirement within the next

few years. This move, which saves very little money, sends a signal individually and collectively to accelerate that decision, thereby potentially leaving our economy and our society in a weaker position to compete globally and to prosper domestically.

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#### DEFINING CHOICES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, as the American middle class continues to endure tough economic challenges, the deadline looms for extending middle class tax cuts that will provide continued relief when it is needed the most.

Standing in our way are Republicans who are holding the middle class hostage in favor of giving added tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, even though these bonus tax breaks would add \$700 billion to the national deficit.

So what is at stake? These middle class tax cuts will provide 98 percent of Americans who face a tax increase on January 1 the much needed relief that they deserve. For the typical middle class family, that means the loss of \$2,000 next year. The Republican demands would mean that those making more than \$1 million a year would receive an average of \$100,000 annually, and the middle class would be saddled with \$700 billion in new debt to pay for multimillion-dollar tax cuts for billionaires. In tough times like these, millionaires should be giving charity, not getting it, and that is the choice that the American people should be demanding that we make.

#### AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WASTE PROBLEM

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the incoming House leadership has signaled that they are once again resurrecting Yucca Mountain as a solution to this Nation's nuclear waste problem. This is the height of insanity.

Let me remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we are talking about shipping 77,000 tons of lethal, radioactive nuclear waste across 43 States to be buried in a hole in the Nevada desert where we have groundwater issues, seismic activity and volcanic activity, and it is 90 miles from a major population center—Las Vegas.

There are no EPA radiation standards. There is no way to protect the shipments from terrorist attacks. It requires millions of gallons of water. We are in the desert; there is no water. We are in the middle of a drought.

This is a waste of taxpayer money. Let's bury this ridiculous idea and fig-

ure out what we are going to do with this Nation's nuclear waste before we continue to produce more nuclear waste that we still don't know what to do with. Let's forget this nonsense and figure out how this Nation is going to become energy independent. Nuclear is not the way to go.

#### TAX CUTS FOR MILLIONAIRES

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, Republicans are holding tax cuts for the middle class hostage as they try to extend tax cuts for millionaires. They say letting tax cuts for the very wealthy expire will hurt small businesses. It is just not true. Ninety-seven percent of small businesses would see no tax increase under the Democratic plan. If the Republicans think they are talking about small businesses, they are truly out of touch.

While they stand in the way of unemployment benefits for millions of Americans still reeling from the crisis Wall Street and the previous administration created, they are doing everything they can to give huge checks to millionaires. This is just one more example of who the Republicans are really watching out for.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 4783, CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1736 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1736

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4783) to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Chile, and to extend the period from which such contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Haiti may be accelerated, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour, with 50 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources and 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the